

Lesson
3

Speech! Speech!

Vocabulary

All the words in this lesson may be associated with speech and language.

brevity (BREV i tee) N. shortness of duration; conciseness (*After four hours of speeches, everyone appreciated the governor's brevity.*)

contradict (KAHN truh DIKT) V. to assert the opposite (*I felt that it was my duty to contradict what he said about my brother.*)

dialect (DY uh LEKT) N. a particular variety of language spoken by members of a group or residents of a geographic region (*The dialect spoken in Louisiana is unlike any other kind of English I know.*)

diction (DIK shuhn) N. pronunciation; vocal expression (*Clear diction is characteristic of most successful orators.*)

edit (ED it) V. to select, correct, and prepare for publication (*The aspiring writer refused to allow anyone to edit his work.*)

eloquent (EL uh kwuhnt) ADJ. fluent and graceful in the use of language (*The jurors were moved to tears by the lawyer's eloquent defense of his client.*)

emphasis (EM fuh sis) N. special importance or attention given to something to make it stand out (*The school places emphasis on basic skills, such as reading.*)

enunciate (i NUHN see AYT) V. to articulate speech sounds (*Stop mumbling and enunciate clearly.*)

equivocate (i KWIV uh KAYT) V. to use vague language with the intent to deceive or mislead (*Raymond attempted to equivocate about where he had been.*)

guttural (GUHT ur uhl) ADJ. pertaining to or produced in or near the throat (*Many languages contain letters pronounced with a guttural sound.*)

idioms (ID ee uhmz) N. expressions whose meanings cannot be derived from the combined literal meanings of their words (*"To put up with" is one of the many English idioms.*)

incite (in SYT) V. to urge on or arouse (*An emotional speech at this time could incite a riot.*)

incoherent (in koh HEER uhnt) ADJ. unable to express oneself clearly or logically (*The officer was unable to get the details because the woman was incoherent after the accident.*)

jargon (JAHR guhn) N. specialized or technical vocabulary (*I was able to understand much of the physician's jargon because I had worked in an emergency room.*)

linguistic (ling GWIS tik) ADJ. pertaining to language (*Humans begin to develop linguistic abilities as soon as they are born.*)

lucid (LOO sid) ADJ. easy to understand; rational (*The professor's explanation of the theorem was so lucid that I understood it immediately.*)

oratory (OR uh TOR ee) N. the art of public speaking (*Many people attend seminars to enhance their skills in oratory.*)

prosaic (proh ZAY ik) ADJ. factual; unpoetic; dull or commonplace (*Although his ideas are clever, this author's prosaic writing style does not appeal to everyone.*)

usage (YOO sij) N. the way language is used to express ideas (*Advertising has had much to do with changing English usage.*)

verbose (vur BOHS) ADJ. wordy (*The pastor's verbose sermon was needlessly long.*)